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Poll Spotlights Wide Support For President

The American public strongly supports President Reagan's economic program, a major new survey has determined.

Findings of the poll, conducted by Opinion Research Corp. for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, are expected to be used extensively in the national debate over the president's proposals.

The survey found support for budget cuts and individual and business tax relief in the form recommended by President Reagan.

Results of the poll were announced at a news conference at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Presidential counselor Edwin Meese, who was present to hear the findings announced, commented that, "This poll verifies what all of us in the administration have been saying."

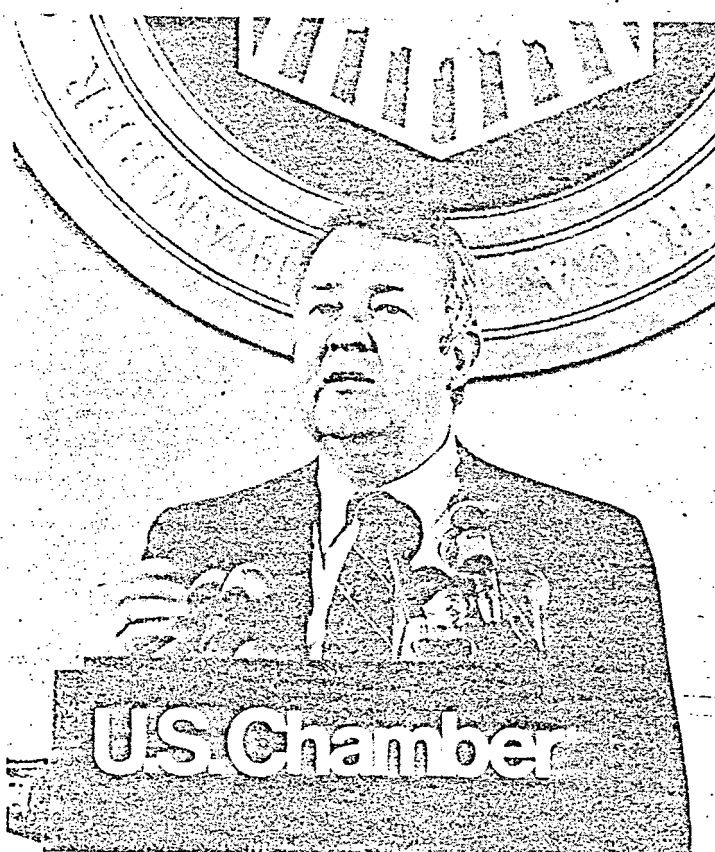
Chamber President Richard L. Leshner said, "Findings of the ORC poll show clearly and unmistakably how Americans feel about the Reagan program."

He added that members of Congress who oppose the program should "re-evaluate their positions... because they do not reflect Main Street."

ORC interviewed a probability sample of 1,200 adults between April 2 and April 5. Among the major findings:

- A significant majority of 70 percent of respondents said economic conditions

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Presidential counselor Edwin Meese III welcomed economic survey findings.

Reagan Fiscal Plans Nearing Crucial Phase

By Steven Stern

The current congressional recess could be one of the most crucial phases of President Reagan's battle to win passage of his economic-recovery program.

Both the White House and its opponents on Capitol Hill are using the legislative lull to rally public opinion on behalf of their respective positions.

Each is hoping for substantially increased grass-roots backing to use as a major weapon when the economic-policy debate is resumed with the return of Congress on April 27.

The president received a major boost in his efforts when a new public-opinion survey showed the American people strongly in favor of his program for cutting taxes and spending.

The administration's strategies in the battle to win support are using the findings of the survey extensively in their efforts to win over members of Congress.

The chief goal of the White House is regaining the strong momentum which was slowed considerably by an unexpected setback in the GOP-controlled Senate Budget Committee.

Conservative GOP Sens. William Armstrong (Colo.), Charles Grassley (Iowa), and Steven Symms (Idaho) voted against the Reagan plan because they believed the resolution's deficits for fiscal 1981-84 were inconsistent with Republican pledges to balance the budget.

In the Democratic-controlled House, the Budget Committee supported, by a 17-10 margin, its own version of the budget.

It scales back the tax cut Reagan recommended and spares many social programs from his budget knife.

Until President Reagan personally declared he was not open to compromise on his program, there was some confusion on that point.

Rep. Jim Jones (D-Okla.), the generally bipartisan chairman of the House Budget Committee had said, "I believe that the administration, in the indications that I've received unofficially, will be willing to work

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Business Help Asked in Budget Test

Business is being urged to help President Reagan win an upcoming congressional test that could have a major impact on the future of his economic program.

Richard L. Leshner, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, is appealing to members of the business community to ask their representatives to support the Reagan proposals fully in the forthcoming key vote in the House.



Leshner

"Now is a critical time for the president's program," Leshner said in a message to Chamber members. "There's a real chance for historic change. Don't let it slip away."

He urged business men and women to contact their U.S. representatives in support of the Gramm-Latta amendment when it comes up for a floor vote, which could be as early as next week.

That amendment embodies the Reagan program. It will be offered as a substitute for a House Budget Committee resolution

that calls for \$132 billion more spending and \$150 billion less tax relief than Reagan is proposing over the next three fiscal years.

"Obviously the Budget Committee's resolution must be rejected," Leshner said. "Maintaining high levels of spending and taxation would simply be more of the same discredited economic doctrine of the past."

But if the president succeeds, the business leader said, "the results will be historic. It will mean a deliberate movement away from the doctrine of big government—and toward increased reliance on the private-enterprise system."

He advised the business community: "Insist on support for the president's program—from both Democrats and Republicans. Economic growth is not a partisan objective; the issue should not be viewed as a contest between the parties."

The Gramm-Latta amendment is sponsored by Reps. Phil Gramm (D-Tex.) and Delbert Latta (R-Ohio), both members of the House Budget Committee.

Under the leadership of Chairman James Jones (D-Okla.), that panel approved the so-called "alternative" proposal to the Reagan plan.

The president has said the committee approach is unacceptable. He has ruled out specifically the prospect of compromise, stating he is confident he has the support of the American people in his stand. (See story above on public-opinion poll.)

If enacted, Leshner said, the Gramm-Latta amendment would lay the foundation for achievement of the president's key goals: a spending slowdown that would bring the

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Tax Relief Essential Element In Reagan's Fiscal Program

By Hank Cox
News Analysis

President Reagan is encountering stiff political opposition to his program for economic recovery, despite his overwhelming election and Republican control of the Senate.

That opposition, basically, stems from the fact that many congressional leaders of both parties do not understand the critical importance of the tax cuts in the president's program.

To reduce federal spending without cutting taxes will not increase business investment, promote savings or encourage people to work harder. Cutting taxes and reducing spending are two sides of the same coin.

The president wants to reverse the 20-

year trend in which increasing amounts of the nation's wealth have flowed from private enterprise, the most productive sector, to government, the least productive.

Reversing that flow would reverse the decline in the productivity, that is the ultimate measure of economic health.

Growth of the government's share of national resources deprives citizens and businesses of capital needed for investment. A growing tax burden actually discourages people from working harder and, in some cases, from working at all.

To restore economic health, the president wants tax relief for both businesses and individuals, with most of the benefit going to individuals.

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